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About the monthly Water Level bulletin

September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	92%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	130%
Lake Superior	66%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	92%
Lake Ontario	125%

LEVEL news

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 5, Number 10 **October 7, 1997**

Stormy Season Begins

Lake Levels Decline Gradually During September

Water levels on all of the Great Lakes declined by about an average amount for this time of year during September. As we enter the fall storm season, the risk of severe damages to properties along Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie remains high.

At the beginning of October, Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie were all 55 to 60 centimetres above average levels. While these lakes were 25 to 40 centimetres below their record high levels of October 1986, they are very close to levels in October 1972 and October 1985. Considerable damage to shore property was experienced during the fall and winter of both those years.

Water levels on Lakes Superior and Ontario at the beginning of October were 8 and 14 centimetres, respectively, above average levels. The levels of these two lakes have been moving closer to average over the past several months, and the risk of severe damage to properties along their shores this fall is minimal.

It is anticipated that water levels of all the Great Lakes will continue to decline through the remainder of the fall. If very heavy rainfall should occur over that time, the decline in levels could be minimal, as was the case for most of the lakes last fall.

Open House

The International Niagara Board of Control is holding an open house on Thursday, October 30, 1997 at 7:30 p.m., at the Queen's Landing Inn, 155 Byron Street Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The purpose of this open house is to inform the public of the Board's current activities and to hear public comments and suggestions regarding the Board's work. In addition, information will be presented on the Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom and Great Lakes' water levels.

Return to Regulation Plan Flows

Note: These figures are preliminary.

September Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior	83%
Lake Erie	121%
Lake Huron	113%
Lake Ontario	119%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

As reported last month, in August the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control reduced the outflow from Lake Ontario by 200 cubic metres per second in order to raise levels in sections of the St. Lawrence River. On September 23 the Board resumed discharging higher flows determined according to the regulation plan.

The Board has agreed to a request by the Ontario Marina Operators Association to have the Lake Ontario outflow set at 200 cubic metres per second below regulation plan flow on October 10-11, and again on October 17-18. This flow adjustment is intended to temporarily raise the level on Lake St. Lawrence in order to help recreational boaters hauling out their boats. At the beginning of October, the level of Lake St. Lawrence was about 45 centimetres below average.

Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Regulation Plan Revisions

The International Joint Commission is seeking public comment on a proposed regulation plan for Lake Ontario outflows that would make minor adjustments to the regulation of water levels on the lake and St. Lawrence River as far downstream as Trois Rivières, Québec.

The proposed regulation plan builds on over 30 years of experience with the current regulation plan, Plan 1958D, and includes many of the deviations from Plan 1958-D that are currently made to address various water supply conditions.

The Commission and its International St. Lawrence River Board of Control invite the public to learn about the new plan and to provide comments at a series of public meetings.

Public meetings will be held October 16 in Dorval , Québec at the Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre, 1335 Lakeshore Drive; October 29 in Kingston, Ontario at the public library, 130 Johnson Street; and November 14 in Massena, NY. Each meeting will take place from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Meetings will also be held in Brockport NY and Sodus Point NY. For more information, or to receive a report about the new plan, contact Ed Eryuzlu at (613) 990-5617.

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